

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 13, 2005. Claims 38-40, 42-52, 55, 56, and 58 are presented for examination, of which Claims 38, 55, and 58 are in independent form. Claims 1-27 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 38, 42-52, 55, and 58 have been amended to define Applicants' invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 9, 10, 14-17, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0013894 (Parulski et al.); and that Claims 2-8, 12, 13, 18-24, 26, 38-40, 42-52, 55, 56, and 58 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parulski et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,552,743 (Rissman). Cancellation of Claims 1-27 renders their rejections moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the other rejections and submit that independent Claims 38, 55, and 58, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention, as set forth in Claim 38, is directed to an image processing system in which an image input apparatus and an image output apparatus are connected via a serial bus. The image input apparatus includes input means, determination means, first conversion means, and first communication means. The image output apparatus includes second communication means, holding means, second conversions means, and output means.

The input means inputs image data of a first format, and the determination

means determines whether to convert the image data of the first format into image data of a second format. The first conversion means converts the image data of the first format into the image data of the second format based on a determination result, and the first communication means transmits the image data of the first format or the image data of the second format to the image output apparatus.

The second communication means receives image data transmitted from the image input apparatus, and the holding means temporarily holds the received image data in a buffer having a predetermined capacity. If the image data held in the buffer is image data of the first format, the second conversion means converts the image data into image data of the second format. The output means sequentially outputs the image data of the second format.

Some of the notable features of Claim 38 are that a conversion of image data performed by each of the first conversion means and the second conversion means includes a color correction process, a decompression process, and a conversion process, and that the second conversion means converts image data in accordance with the conversion process performed by the first conversion means.

Parulski et al. relates to a digital camera with internal resources used to process an image for printing. Apparently, Parulski et al. teaches that printer parameters are uploaded from a printer to the camera to provide a basis for image processing specific to the printer. The Office Action asserts that Parulski et al. discloses all the features of Claim 38, except that it “does not disclose expressly that the output apparatus contains second conversion means for converting the image data into the second format, if it is received in the first format.” The Office

Action then alleges that Rissman discloses such a feature.

Rissman relates to a camera-ready printer that can print directly from a digital camera. Applicants submit that a combination of Parulski et al. and Rissman, assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest an image processing system in which an image input apparatus and an image output apparatus are connected via a serial bus, “wherein a conversion of image data performed by each of the first conversion means and the second conversion means includes a color correction process, a decompression process, and a conversion process, and wherein the second conversion means converts image data in accordance with the conversion process performed by the first conversion means,” as recited in Claim 38. Support for these features may be found, for example, in Fig. 28 and in the Substitute Specification filed on August 24, 2004, at paragraph [0158] *et seq.*

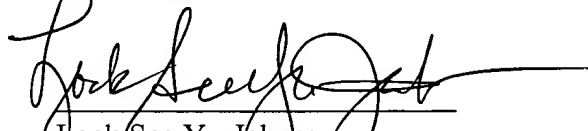
Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 38 is patentable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claims 55 and 58 include features similar to those discussed above and therefore are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Also, the other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and an early passage to issue of this application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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